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***The Chimes is a publication of the
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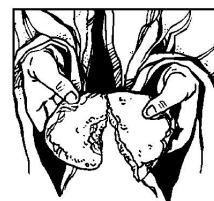
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*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
 each proud division ends.*

*The love that made us, makes us one,
 and strangers now are friends.*

(Brian Wren hymn, "I Come with Joy" vs. 3)



Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you from the shore of Swanze Lake at the Pilgrim Pines retreat center, where I am participating in the NH Conference UCC's annual Clergy Convocation. Our keynote speaker is the Rev. Mary Luti, who is helping this group of pastors and chaplains to approach the Communion table with renewed and deepened perspective. I am feeling deeply nourished by the whole thing; such a soul feast!

I'd love to hear your answers to some of the questions she's asked us to discuss so far:

If we didn't celebrate The Lord's Supper once a month, would you miss it? (Why, or why not?)

What do you consider to be the most important words in the communion service—the words without which it wouldn't really be a communion celebration for you?

If a Martian landed in your sanctuary on a Communion Sunday, how would they know what you're doing there is a meal?

Mary's reflections have renewed and deepened my appreciation for the prophetic act of resistance the Communion Table represents to the ways and forces of this world.

Among other things, it is a rebuke to imperial and despotic leaders; to the overwhelmingly unbalanced and transactional nature of so many human relationships;

(From the Pastor- continued from p. 1)

to so many forms of injustice we're involuntarily caught up in, simply by being humans living in community. Some days it feels like human beings are taking this realm further and further from God's dream for all creation. Yet at Christ's Table we proclaim, "Now, this is how it's meant to be!"

Rev. Luti shared a powerful excerpt from Daniel Berrigan's book, *Love, Love at the End: Parables, Prayers, and Meditations by way of illustration*:
"When I hear bread breaking, I see something else; it seems almost as though God never meant us to do anything else. So beautiful a sound, the crust breaks up like manna and falls all over everything, and then we eat; bread gets inside humans. Sometime in your life, hope you might see one starved man, the look on his face when the bread finally arrives. Hope you might have baked it or bought it – or even kneaded it yourself. For that look on his face, for your hands meeting his across a piece of bread, you might be willing to lose a lot, or suffer a lot – or die a little, even."



WORLD **COMMUNION** SUNDAY

On **October 5th**, along with many other churches we will observe **World Communion Sunday**. I will have more to say about the beauty of our sacrament, and telling our Christian story, then! In fact, several events that day will honor not only the holy communion we enjoy with fellow Christians, but with all of creation.

Also on October 5 our annual **Blessing of the Animals Service** will take place on **Little Nichols Field at 12 noon**. And then, between **2-4 p.m.**, you'll be able to enjoy more blessed fruits of the earth and of human hands, at the **annual Hollis Apple Festival** on our Squires Community Patio and town common (or the Hollis-Brookline Middle School in the event of rain).

Various expressions of holy communing will continue throughout the month. On **October 19th**, our friends at the Brookline Community Church look forward to welcoming us in joint worship and fellowship there in Brookline at 9 a.m. (please note the time difference!). I will miss being with you all that day, but will be communing with my five Stormo sisters in Colorado. One of them initiated a first-ever "Sisters Weekend" for all six of us and is hosting us from the 16th-19th. Although most of us are now in our 50s, we've never done anything like this before! And, while each of us is quite different in terms of passions, pursuits, and perspectives, we all have similar strength of personality ... so, I'm filled with curiosity and anticipation for what the weekend will hold!

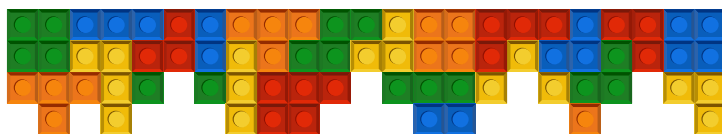
Friends, building on the theme/idea of being change-makers who engage the practices of compassion, collaboration, creativity, and empowerment that were introduced in September, and as we dive into our October-November Stewardship theme of "Dreaming God's Dream": holy communion is at the heart of it all. I hope as you ponder what Holy Communion – the Lord's Supper – means to and for you, that all of us might "find ways to eat in joy the bread of tears, and eat in tears the bread of joy."

Yours with faith, hope, and love,

Tanya



FROM THE FAITH FORMATION OFFICE



LEGO

LUNCHEON

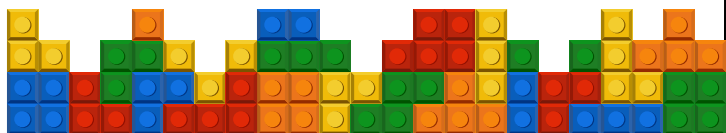
Do you like LEGOS? Do you like lunch?

October 26th 11am - 1pm

Are you in grades K-2? Then we have the spot for you! We will learn about the Two Builders,



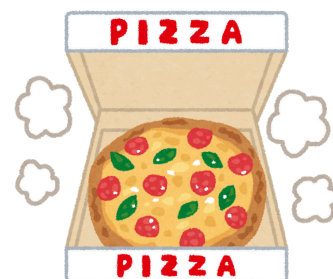
play with LEGOS and have lunch together. \$5 per LEGO builder and lunch will be provided! Reach out to Kim at ce@hollischurch.org to sign up.



FLOCK FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT IS BACK

Join Kim on **Thursday, October 16th** from **5:15-6:30pm** for pizza and pumpkin decorating in Hardy Hall!

This is where parents & kids alike can come and enjoy Christian fellowship with each other and have a night off from cooking.



Come join in the fun! Check your emails for the sign up genius link! Hope to see you there!

Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY School

New First Sunday of Each Month Sunday School Format!



On the first Sunday of each month, Sunday school classes will split into two classes divided by grades after the Message for All ages.



Grades PreK-2 will gather in the Flagg Room, and grades 3-6 will gather in Hardy Hall.

Grades 3-6 will now have the opportunity to join in Communion with the congregation, stay for the remainder of the service and be worship helpers.

This new format will begin on **October 5th!** If you have any questions, please reach out to Kim at ce@hollischurch.org.



FOOD AND FUEL MINISTRY TEAM

Scouting for Food

Did you know that our church receives food from the 'Scouting for Food' Campaign to help fill our holiday food boxes?



Hollis Scouts will be distributing the **doorknob reminders on Saturday, November 1.**
Food collection will be on November 8.

Please consider donating any canned or dry foods (NO GLASS). **Leave the bags out in a visible place** by your door or near your mailbox **NO LATER than 8 am on November 8th, rain or shine.** Scouts will not ring the doorbell to collect donations. If your bag has not been picked up by 11 am, please use the drop box at the center entrance of the church.

If you do not receive a doorknob reminder and would like to contribute, monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Checks can be made out to Hollis Congregational Church with a note on the memo line for Thanksgiving boxes.

The scouting community would like to thank you in advance for your generous donations. Many will enjoy a nice meal because of your generosity.

Give Thanks



Thanksgiving Food Boxes are an "all-church" effort...

The Food and Fuel Ministry Team gets non-perishable foods through Scouting for Food and purchases Thanksgiving meal items and a gift certificate to include in the boxes...

Our children create Thanksgiving greeting cards and bring treats and other Thanksgiving dinner items.



Church volunteers* pack the food into boxes for deliver.



Our Food and Fuel Team and other church volunteers* deliver the boxes.



Food Box Packing

The box packing this year will take place on Sunday, Nov. 16

immediately after church at Brookdale Farm

*Contact Bruce Bottanimi (caracasa99@yahoo.com) or any member of the Food and Fuel team to volunteer to pack or deliver food boxes

In the past we have asked for homemade or store-bought pumpkin pies to include in the food boxes. The FFMT committee is looking into other dessert options. An announcement will be made in the church bulletin re: the decision at a future date. Let's work together to make it a Happy Thanksgiving for all!

Thank you! Food and Fuel Ministry Team



Christmas Fair News...

The Christmas Fair is returning with all the favorites, including the Luncheon, Raffle Baskets, Silent Auction, New-to-You, Angel Loft, Book Room (with puzzles & DVDs, too), Bake Sale (including pre-order homemade pies & crisps), Kids Craft, and hopefully Santa visits.

Mark your calendars for: Saturday, November 22nd!

Please plan to help and/or contribute however you can.

This is always a fun event and is a great opportunity to welcome people from Hollis and the surrounding communities into the church. Our many visitors look forward to it every year!

We NEED YOU to help make it a success!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Musical Entertainment organizer and recruiter
- Musicians/singers to perform and share the holiday spirit
- Publicity coordinator
- Helpers needed prior, during and after the event

Donations Needed:

- New or gently used items for children to purchase as gifts for their family members in the Angel Loft (e.g., toys, games, jewelry, Mom & Dad things) and holiday or plain gift bags, too
- Gift cards to local businesses, tickets to games or events, special experience opportunities, excursions, gift baskets, coupons for a unique product or service (be creative) and other new items for the Silent Auction
- Books, puzzles, games and DVDs for Book Room
- Homemade tasty treats for the Bake Sale
- New or "like new" goods for the New-to-You, Re-Gifting Table
- Handmade craft items for the Craft tables
- Items for themed Raffle Baskets

*We ♥ our
Volunteers*



"To volunteer, ask questions or pre order pies/crisps, email ChristmasFair@hollischurch.org or contact Carol Birch (603-860-2178) or Kim Burton.



- Silent Auction (Allison D'ambrosio),
- Book Room (Karen Marino),
- Bake Sale & Crafts (Debbe Shipman),
- Re-Gifting Table (Thelma Wigfield),
- Luncheon (Carol Birch),
- Raffle Baskets (Jenn Millen),
- Angel Loft (Kim & CE),
- Kids Craft (Julie Kopser),
- Decorations (Britta Bergeron, Sue Burton).

ARE YOU A CRAFTER



Do you have an interesting, unique, or useful craft item or items that you would be willing to donate to our handmade craft table at the Fair? Donations will be welcomed any time until the first part of November and can be left in the church office. Let's make this area a great feature at our fair again!

Pre-Order Your Homemade Pies & Apple Crisps



Once again, we are offering pre-ordered homemade pies & apple crisps to be purchased and picked up at the Fair on 11/22, just in time for Thanksgiving. They will be frozen and ready-to-bake at home for the holidays. Reserve yours now to ensure availability: Choose from traditional 2-crust apple pie, dutch crumb apple pie, triple berry pie, and apple crisps (square or 9"x13"). Send email request to: ChristmasFair@hollischurch.org.

MISSION & ACTION NEWS

MISSION & ACTION NEWS



Greater Nashua CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, October 19th

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time



"We walk because they walk." This is our 41st year! The walk will take place on **Sunday, October 19, 2025**, beginning and ending at Temple Beth Abraham, 4 Raymond Street in Nashua. Registration is from 12 to 1 pm, with opening ceremonies at 1 pm and stepping out at 1.30 pm. Those who raise all their money online don't need to register and can grab lunch before coming at 12.45 pm.

Registration and celebration are in the TBA parking lot, weather permitting.

You can also "walk on the web", you can start your own team (just indicate what faith community you are connected to) and raise money online.



For any questions or to volunteer please contact Becky Green at nashuacropwalk@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/nashuanh>

Red Cross Blood Drive News



15 units of blood were collected at our drive on September 13th. Our next drive is scheduled for **November 8th from 9am until 2pm**. There is always a critical shortage of blood and your help is urgently needed! Donating blood is a simple, safe process that can make a life-saving difference for parents in need – whether they are undergoing surgery, fighting cancer, or recovering from trauma. **Just one donation can save up to three lives**, yet less than 10% of eligible donors give blood annually! This shortage puts countless lives at risk every day. We urge all eligible individuals ages 17 and up, in good health – to step forward and donate. The process typically takes less than an hour, probably closer to 30 minutes, and you'll be guided by friendly, trained medical professionals every step of the way. You can sign up to donate by visiting redcrossblood.org. **Be a hero. Donate blood and save lives.**



Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the causes our church embraces. Your donations help us serve our neighbors with compassion and purpose.

Items of the Month

In **October**, we are collecting new or gently used cold-weather clothing

Mittens, hats, scarves, sweaters, ski jackets, coats, ski pants for the Davis Funeral Home.

Please place items in our bins in front side door.



Ongoing Collection

- Used cell phones for Bridges
- Small toiletries for the Nashua Soup Kitchen
- Non-perishable food for the Brookline Food Pantry



Additional Giving Opportunities

- Eyeglasses: Drop off at the Lions Club box at Walmart
- Women's hygiene items: Donate directly to Bridges or Marguerite's Place using Amazon.
- Diapers: Order via Amazon and ship directly to Bridges or Marguerite's Place

Your Dollars at Work

This month we have given to

End 68 Hours of Hunger,
Project Nigerian Wells, CROP Walk,
Church World Service Kits,
NH Breast Care Coalition,
Immigration & Refugee Support Group
We have reapplied for the Bombas Sock Program for next year. If you know an organization in need of 2,000 pairs of socks or help with distribution, let Mission & Action know.



We Consistently Support:

- Marguerite's Place, Bridges, Nashua Soup Kitchen, Brookline Food Pantry
- School Nurses, Water Well Projects, End 68 Hours of Hunger
- The UCC's 5-for-5 Mission Program:
- Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, The Christmas Fund, and Basic Support for Our Church's Wider Mission

Through Your Stewardship

Mission & Action allocates funds:

- 60% Local
- 30% National & International
- 10% Church Related



We're always looking for new organizations that align with our mission—especially those addressing children's needs and food insecurity.

Share Your Faith in Action. Do you support a charity with your time, talents, or donations? Let us know! We want to highlight how members live out their faith and help others find ways to serve. Please reach out to: • Kimber Harmon • Karen Coulter • Shawntel Fugate Together, we can be a church that not only gives—but acts.

From your Christian Stewardship Board...

LET'S DREAM GOD'S DREAM TOGETHER

Every big dream starts with a small step. That's true in our own lives, and it's true in the life of our church. This year, as we begin our stewardship campaign, we're inviting everyone to dream with God. Our theme says it all: ***"Dreaming God's Dream: No Gift or Action Too Small, No Dream Too Big."***

Think about it: the ministries we love most in our church the laughter of children in Sunday school, the joy of music in worship, the welcome we offer to visitors, the meals we serve to neighbors each of these started with someone's gift, someone's dream, and a willingness to say "yes" to God. No one's contribution is insignificant. Like the loaves and fishes offered by a young boy, even the smallest gift, when placed in God's hands, becomes abundant and life-giving.

Stewardship is not just about paying bills or keeping lights on. It's about fueling the dreams God places in our hearts. Your gift, whether large or small, matters. Like a seed planted in good soil, every act of generosity grows into something far bigger than we can imagine. A few years ago, our church embarked on an ambitious project to renovate our beloved space, one that came with a hefty price tag. The church set a "reach goal" of \$2 million. At the time, many of us had doubts. Could we really raise that much money?



Would the dream of a more functional and beautiful space ever become a reality?

There was a lot of fear and uncertainty. But through prayer, hard work, and the generosity of our congregation, that dream came true. The renovation turned out beautifully, creating a welcoming and more functional space for worship, fellowship, and community. We now have a space that not only honors our past but also supports the exciting ministries and programs of the future. And what's more, we ended up raising \$2 million for the renovation, and we don't carry any debt from that capital campaign. Looking back, it's amazing to see how God used our collective faith to bring this dream to life. What other dreams can our congregation make come true?

As we begin this stewardship season, we invite you to join in prayer and reflection:

- *What dream is God placing on your heart for our church?*
- *How might your gift, large or small, help nurture that dream?*
- *What step of faith can you take to grow in generosity this year?*

As we move forward in our stewardship journey, we want to hear from you! Just as we've seen in our past that big dreams can come true, we believe that God has placed unique visions in each of our hearts for the future of our church. *What do you dream for our congregation?*

How do you envision us growing, serving, and impacting the community?

We invite you to **share your dreams** with the Stewardship Committee, whether they're about ministry opportunities, ways to enhance our worship experience, or outreach ideas that will extend God's love beyond our walls. Your thoughts and ideas are an important part of this process, and together we can continue to build a church that reflects God's heart and vision for the future.

Please submit your dreams to the Stewardship Committee by emailing stewardship@hollischurch.org.

When we join our gifts together, we become part of something truly beautiful. No one of us can do it alone but together, with God's help, there is no limit to what we can dream and what we can do. Together, we can dream boldly, give faithfully, and watch God's Spirit move among us. No gift is too small. No dream is too big. And when we dream God's dream together, we become the church God calls us to be.

Faith in Action Spotlight – David Gilmour

This month we celebrate David Gilmour, who volunteers at the Nashua Winter Warming Station, a program that provides warmth, safety, and dignity to adults experiencing homelessness during the coldest months. David volunteers at the Winter Warming Station, located in the former Elm Street Middle School cafeteria.

Open nightly from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., the center offers warmth, safety, and dignity to adults experiencing homelessness during the coldest months. Guests are welcomed with snacks, coffee, and a calm environment—complete with old movies and a respectful, substance-free atmosphere.”

How He Got Involved

David wanted to serve the homeless. He said it wasn't just enough to give money and work on the periphery. He had a deeper call to serve. He wanted to get to know the individuals, know their names, and rub shoulders. A desire to connect. I reached out to Bobby Bagley and signed up through United Way.

What he Does

David volunteers during the early evening shift from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., helping distribute snacks and coffee, welcoming guests, and supporting the two staff members who run the warming center.

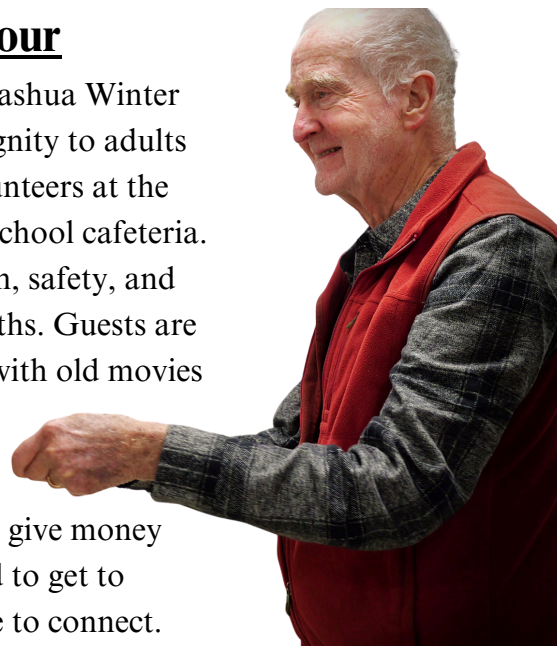
“I was so nervous when I walked in that first night,” David recalls. “I wondered how I was going to relate to these people.” But as he settled in behind the refreshment table, offering small talk and quiet hospitality, he realized how peaceful the evening felt. “It was warm, friendly, and respectful. They were waiting for me—and I just tried to be present.” The experience left a lasting impression. “It was easy to choose a shift that fit my schedule,” David says, “and I’m so glad I did. I look forward to going back. I’ll definitely sign up again this year—I love doing it now.”

Why It Matters

“The warming center is a place of respect,” David says. “It’s not about fixing anyone—it’s about showing up.” Attendance varies from 10 to 30 guests each night. While other shelters offer overnight stays, this space fills a vital gap. It’s a place where adult individuals can come and get a respite from the cold. “It’s a year-old program, and it’s much needed.”

How You Can Help

If you feel called to serve like David Gilmour, you can sign up for a shift through [Volunteer Greater Nashua](#). No special skills required—just a warm smile and a heart for hospitality. Volunteers are always welcome, and every act of kindness makes a difference.



From the Church Office

Church Office Hours

Program Year Hours (September - May)

The church office is open

Monday through Thursday 8 am – 12 pm

Church office hours are subject to change to accommodate inclement weather, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).



DEACONS

CHARITEA
The Deacon Board



The Deacon board will be sponsoring a **“Charitea”** on **Nov. 2 from 2-3:30 pm in Hardy Hall**. This effort will support the Food & Fuel Ministry Team with funding for the holiday food boxes. The event is free but we simply ask for free will donations toward feeding those who are struggling with food insecurity in our town and surrounding communities. This is also a great chance to simply sit with our church family and relax a bit before the business of all the holidays descend. The Charitea will be tea and coffee (as well as other beverages) and cookies and tea cakes.

If you feel like baking something for the event, Deacons would be most appreciative. And if you have any decorating talents, or have musical talents you would like to share (while folks are chatting around you!) **Please let Dot Hyde (465-6416)** know, and she will be thankful for any assistance! Hoping to see you there!!



Do You Like to Sing?

On **December 13th**, the Hollis Town Band and Community Christmas Chorus will present a holiday concert, collecting non-perishable



food for our church’s holiday baskets as “admission.” Dessert sales at intermission help to fund the perishable items in the food boxes.

Come join the Community Christmas Chorus!

This is a short-term 8-week commitment for anyone who loves to sing. No auditions – if you can climb the stairs at the Town Hall, you’re in! All voices needed! Rehearsals are **Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15pm** upstairs in the Town Hall. **First rehearsal is Wednesday, October 22**, but you can still join even if you can’t make it on the 22nd — just come when you can!



Thank You to Our Chimes Mailing Volunteers

Each month, our faithful volunteers give their time to collate, prepare, and maintain the high standards of the Chimes—their dedication is what keeps this publication reaching our congregation.

We are deeply grateful for our Chimes volunteers, whose time, energy, and care in collating and preparing each issue make it possible to share church news and stay connected as a congregation.



Information is subject to change. For the latest updates, visit our online Chimes at <https://hollischurch.org/news/chimes/>.

OCTOBER 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am—12:00pm. Please remember that hours are subject to change to accommodate inclement weather, holidays, vacations, and staffing fluctuations. Call before you stop by or make an appointment (603-465-7797).</p>						
			<p>4:30pm Caring Connections</p> 	<p>7:00pm Choir</p> 		
	<p>9:30am Flock 9:30am Communion Worship 10:30am FF - C.E Board Blessing of the Animals Apple Festival</p>  	<p>5:30pm Stewardship</p>	<p>4:30pm Facilities</p>	<p>7:00pm Choir</p> 		
		<p>10:00am Knitting Ministry 4:00pm Mission & Action 6:30pm Music Board</p>		<p>5:15 - 6:30pm</p> 		<p>Mission Trip to Horton Center</p> 
<p>9:30am Flock 9:30am Flock 9:30am Flock</p> 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>9:30am Worship 9:30am Flock</p>	<p>7:00pm Deacons</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>9:30am Worship with Brookline at BCC</p> 	<p>5:30pm Trustees</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Chimes Deadline Chimes</p> 	<p>7:00pm Choir</p> 		
<p>19</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	
<p>9:30am Flock Annual Meeting NH Conference @ Geneva Lego Luncheon 11am - 1pm</p> 	<p>6:30pm Council</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

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CRISP DAYS & COOL EVENTS: OCTOBER GUIDE

OCT 5 BLESSINGS OF THE ANIMALS

12:00PM LITTLE NICHOLS FIELD, HOLLIS, NH

OCT 9 FLOCK FAMILY PIZZA NIGHT

THURSDAY 5.15 - 6:30PM

OCT 19 CROP WALK AT TEMPLE BETH ABRAHAM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025, 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OCT 19 WORSHIP WITH BROOKLINE AT BCC (NO FLOCK)

2 MAIN ST, BROOKLINE, 9:30AM WORSHIP

OCT 26 LEGO LUNCHEON

SUNDAY 11.00 - 1.00PM